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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

MISAEI AMBRIZ, JIMMY NIMMO,
CHRISTOPHER BISSONNETTE, AHMAD
MEHDIPOUR, EUGENE ERLIKH, JAMES
FOX, PETER SAMISH, and CHRISTOPHER
BARULICH, individually and on behalf of all
other persons similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

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GOOGLE LLC.

Defendant.

Case No. 3:23-cv-05437-RFL

**STIPULATED PROTOCOL RE: DISCOVERY
OF ELECTRONICALLY STORED
INFORMATION & [PROPOSED] ORDER**

1 This Stipulated Protocol Re: Discovery of Electronically Stored Information and Proposed
 2 Order is based on the Northern District of California's Model Stipulated Order Re: Discovery of
 3 Electronically Stored Info (Standard Cases), with deviations indicated on the redline comparison
 4 attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5 **1. PURPOSE**

6 This Order will govern discovery of electronically stored information ("ESI") in this case
 7 as a supplement to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court's Guidelines for the Discovery
 8 of Electronically Stored Information, and any other applicable orders and rules.

9 **2. COOPERATION**

10 Plaintiffs Misael Ambriz, Jimmy Nimmo, Christopher Bissonnette, Ahmad Mehdiour,
 11 Eugene Erlikh, James Fox, Peter Samish, and Christopher Barulich ("Plaintiffs"), and Google LLC
 12 ("Google") (Plaintiffs and Google, together, the "Parties") are aware of the importance the Court
 13 places on cooperation and commit to cooperate in good faith throughout the matter consistent with
 14 this Court's Guidelines for the Discovery of ESI.

15 **3. PROPORTIONALITY**

16 The Parties are expected to use reasonable, good faith and proportional efforts to preserve,
 17 identify and produce relevant information consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
 18 26(b)(1).¹ This includes identifying appropriate limits to discovery, including limits on custodians,
 19 identification of relevant subject matter, time periods for discovery and other parameters to limit
 20 and guide preservation and discovery issues. A party's meaningful compliance with this order and
 21 efforts to promote efficiency and reduce costs will be considered in cost-shifting determinations.

22 **4. COST-SHIFTING**

23 As in all cases, costs may be shifted for disproportionate ESI production requests pursuant
 24 to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26. Likewise, a party's nonresponsive or dilatory discovery
 25 tactics are cost-shifting considerations.

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 27
 28 ¹ Information can originate in any form, including ESI and paper, and is not limited to information
 created or stored electronically.

1 **5. LIAISON**

2 The Parties have identified liaisons to each other who are and will be knowledgeable about
 3 and responsible for discussing their respective ESI. Each e-discovery liaison will be, or have access
 4 to those who are, knowledgeable about the technical aspects of e-discovery, including the location,
 5 nature, accessibility, format, collection, search methodologies, and production of ESI in this matter.
 6 The parties will rely on the liaisons, as needed, to confer about ESI and to help resolve disputes
 7 without court intervention.

8 **6. PRESERVATION**

9 The Parties have discussed their preservation obligations and needs and agree that
 10 preservation of potentially relevant ESI will be reasonable and proportionate. To reduce the costs
 11 and burdens of preservation and to ensure proper ESI is preserved, the Parties agree that:

12 a) Only ESI created or received between October 23, 2022 and the present will be
 13 preserved;

14 b) The Parties have discussed the types of ESI they believe should be preserved and
 15 the custodians, or general job titles or descriptions of custodians, for whom they believe ESI should
 16 be preserved, e.g., “HR head,” “scientist,” and “marketing manager.” The Parties shall add or
 17 remove custodians as reasonably necessary;

18 c) The Parties will agree on the number of custodians per party for whom ESI will be
 19 preserved, searched, reviewed, and produced;

20 d) These data sources are not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost
 21 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(2)(B) and ESI from these sources will be
 22 preserved pursuant to normal business retention, but not searched, reviewed, or produced:

23 1. backup systems and/or tapes used for disaster recovery; and

24 2. systems no longer in use that cannot be accessed.

25 e) Among the sources of data the Parties agree are not reasonably accessible, or not
 26 proportional to the needs of the case, the Parties agree not to preserve, search, review, or produce
 27 the following:

28 1. voice messages;

1 2. information from hard drives, handsets, mobile devices, personal digital
 2 assistants, and tablets;
 3 3. automatically saved versions of documents and emails;
 4 4. video and audio recordings;
 5 5. deleted, slack, fragmented, or other data accessible only by forensics;
 6 6. systems, server and network logs;
 7 7. random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral data
 8 that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating system;
 9 8. on-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache, cookies,
 10 and the like;
 11 9. dynamic fields of databases or log files that are not retained in the usual
 12 course of business; and
 13 10. data in metadata fields that are frequently updated automatically, such as last
 14 opened dates.

15 7. SEARCH

16 a) The Parties agree that in responding to an initial Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34
 17 request, or earlier if appropriate, they will meet and confer about methods to search ESI in order to
 18 identify ESI that is subject to production in discovery and filter out ESI that is not subject to
 19 discovery.

20 b) Each party will use its best efforts to filter out common system files and application
 21 executable files by using a commercially reasonable hash identification process. Hash values that
 22 may be filtered out during this process are located in the National Software Reference Library
 23 ("NSRL") NIST hash set list. Additional culling of file types based on file header information may
 24 include, but are not limited to: Application Package File, Backup Files, Batch Files, Binary Disc
 25 Image, C++ File Formats, Cascading Style Sheet, Configuration File, Database File, Dictionary
 26 Files, Dynamic Link Library, Event Log Files, Executable Files, Hypertext Cascading Stylesheet,
 27 Java Archive Files, JavaScript files, JavaScript Source Code and Class Files, Macintosh Resource
 28 Fork Files, MP3 Files, MP4 Files, Package Manager Files, Program Files, Program Installers,

1 Python Script Files, Quicktime Files, Shell Script Files, System or Temporary Files, Thumbnail
 2 Cache Files, Troff Files, TrueType Font Files, Video Media Files, Waveform Audio File Format,
 3 Windows Cabinet File, Windows Command Files, Windows File Shortcut, Windows Help Files,
 4 Windows Metafiles and Enhanced Metafiles, Windows Spool Files, Windows System File. Source
 5 code files will be provided according to the Protective Order and not included in custodial data
 6 productions.

7 c) A party is required to produce only a single copy of a responsive document, and a
 8 party may de-duplicate responsive ESI across custodians. A party may also de-duplicate email
 9 threads and attachments as follows: In an email thread, only the most evolved responsive email in
 10 a thread will be produced. Where an earlier-in-thread email has a responsive attachment not
 11 contained within the most evolved responsive email, the most evolved earlier-in-thread email
 12 containing the attachment will also be produced along with its attachment. An attachment is a file
 13 associated with an email for retention and storage as a single message unit.

14 d) Nothing in this Protocol shall be construed or interpreted as precluding a producing
 15 party from identifying, collecting, searching or performing review and analysis, including the use
 16 of TAR, to determine if a document is in fact responsive to the requesting party's request or is
 17 privileged or otherwise protected. Further, any document that is in good faith reasonably deemed
 18 not responsive to the requesting party's request, or is privileged or otherwise protected, may be
 19 withheld.

20 e) Hyperlinks are not attachments and the extent to which linked content is collected,
 21 reviewed and produced will depend primarily on whether it independently meets the collection and
 22 search criteria for this action, the linked content is within the possession, custody, or control of the
 23 producing party, is responsive and not privileged, and is not otherwise subject to any other
 24 limitations in this Order. To the extent linked documents are produced, they will be produced in
 25 the form they exist at the time of collection.

26 f) If applicable, no provision of this Order affects the inspection or production of
 27 source code which will be collected and made available consistent with the protective order
 28 governing this case.

1 **8. PRODUCTION FORMATS**

2 The Parties agree to produce documents in TIFF file format. If particular documents warrant
 3 a different format, the Parties will cooperate to arrange for the mutually acceptable production of
 4 such documents. The Parties agree not to degrade the searchability of documents as part of the
 5 document production process.

6 **9. PHASING**

7 a) When a party propounds discovery requests pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
 8 Procedure 34, the Parties agree to phase the production of ESI, including the possibility of rolling
 9 productions.

10 b) Following the initial production, the Parties will continue to prioritize the order of
 11 subsequent productions.

12 **10. DOCUMENTS PROTECTED FROM DISCOVERY**

13 a) Activities undertaken in compliance with the duty to preserve information are
 14 protected from discovery under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(3)(A) and (B).

15 b) Nothing in this Order shall be interpreted to require disclosure of irrelevant
 16 information or relevant information protected by the attorney-client privilege, work-product
 17 doctrine, or any other applicable privilege or immunity. The Parties do not waive any objections to
 18 the production, discoverability, admissibility, or confidentiality of documents and ESI.

19 c) Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed or interpreted as precluding a
 20 producing party from performing review and analysis to determine if a document is in fact relevant
 21 to the requesting party's request or is privileged or otherwise protected. Further, any document that
 22 is in good faith reasonably deemed not relevant to the requesting party's request, or is privileged
 23 or otherwise protected, may be withheld.

24 **11. PRIVILEGE LOG**

25 a) If a party reasonably determines that one or more responsive documents are not
 26 discoverable because it is subject to the attorney-client communication privilege or work product
 27 doctrine, or otherwise not discoverable on the basis of a recognized protection or privilege
 28 (collectively, the "Privileges" and each a "Privilege"), the party shall use reasonable efforts to

1 produce a log for each document or each category of documents withheld for privilege. A party
2 may produce a metadata log for some or all of the documents being withheld and the party receiving
3 the log may request additional information for a reasonable number of documents if it cannot in
4 good faith assess the basis for the Privilege claim. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a party is not
5 required to log the following: (1) redacted documents; (2) communications with counsel after the
6 date the complaint in this action was filed; or (3) documents that post-date the complaint and
7 constitute work product prepared in connection with this action.

8 b) Communications involving counsel or experts for the purpose of this litigation that
9 post-date the filing of the first-filed complaint need not be placed on a privilege log.

10 c) Communications may be identified on a privilege log by category, rather than
11 individually.

12 d) For email communications, only the last-in-time email in the chain will be set forth
13 on the log.

14 **12. MODIFICATION**

15 This Order may be modified by a stipulated order of the Parties or by the Court for good
16 cause shown. Any such modified stipulated order will be titled sequentially as follows, "First
17 Modified Stipulated Order re: Discovery of Electronically Stored Information for Standard
18 Litigation," and each modified stipulated order will supersede the previous stipulated order.

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IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

Dated: May 19, 2025

COOLEY LLP

By: /s/ Kristine Forderer
Kristine Forderer

Attorney for Defendant
GOOGLE LLC

Dated: May 19, 2025

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

By: /s/ Neal J. Deckant
Neal J. Deckant

Attorney for Plaintiffs

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 19, 2025


HONORABLE RITA F. LIN
United States District Judge

1 **ATTESTATION**

2 Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-1(h)(3), I hereby attest that all signatories listed, and on
3 whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the filing.

4 Dated: May 19, 2025
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6 By: /s/ Kristine Forderer
7 Kristine Forderer

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